Mission Morocco

Message for U.S. Citizens on Ebola

October 29, 2014

Ebola Update

The U.S. Mission in Morocco is issuing this message to update U.S. citizens regarding the ongoing Ebola outbreak in Western Africa. Recent reports confirm continued cases of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) in Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone. The CDC has issued a Warning, Level 3 travel notice for U.S. citizens to avoid nonessential travel to those countries, however, it should also be noted that the World Health Organization (WHO) recently declared both Senegal and Nigeria as Ebola-Free.

Travel to the United States from countries affected by EVD

The Department of Homeland Security, in conjunction with the CDC, has implemented new procedures to screen arriving passengers from Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. Passengers traveling directly to the United States by air from the Ebola affected countries will be required to enter the United States through five airports: New York-JFK, Washington-Dulles, Newark, Atlanta, and Chicago-O'Hare. U.S. officials are working with airlines concerning their passengers seeking to enter the United States through other airports, and the airlines will contact passengers for any required rebooking. For additional information, please see the following link on the Department of Homeland Security's web page.

No confirmed cases in Morocco

There have been no/no confirmed cases of EVD in Morocco to date. The Government of Morocco has developed a response plan to deal with suspected cases and published the following information about Ebola on the Ministry of Health web page. The Ministry has also established a toll free phone number, staffed by a medical team of both Arabic and French speakers, to answer specific questions or concerns regarding Ebola. This toll free number is 0801-004747.

General Information about Ebola

While Ebola is a dangerous virus, we remind the community that the risk of contracting the infection is minimal if basic precautionary measures are followed. Ebola is not spread by respiratory secretions or casual contact like the flu or the common cold. It requires direct contact with the bodily fluids (especially vomit, blood, and feces) of someone severely ill with—or recently deceased from—the disease, or by handling or eating undercooked, contaminated bush meat, especially bats, monkeys, gorillas, and some antelope. For further information on Ebola, please see our <u>Ebola Fact Sheet</u>.

For further information on the Ebola outbreak in Africa, please refer to the <u>CDC web page</u> for guidance and updated information. To obtain Travel Health Warnings, visit <u>travel.state.gov</u> and the <u>CDC website</u>, or call the CDC at 1-404-639-3534 from overseas or 1-800-CDC-INFO (1-800-232-4636) from within the United States.

We strongly recommend that U.S. citizens traveling to or residing in Morocco enroll in the Department of State's <u>Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP)</u>. STEP enrollment gives you the latest security updates, and makes it easier for the U.S. embassy or nearest U.S. consulate to contact you in an emergency. If you don't have Internet access, enroll directly with the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate. U.S. citizens are also encouraged to visit <u>the U.S. Embassy Morocco website</u>.

For the latest security information, U.S. citizens traveling abroad should regularly monitor the Department of State's Internet website at <u>travel.state.gov</u> where the <u>Worldwide Caution</u>, <u>Country Specific Information</u>, <u>Travel Warnings</u>, and <u>Travel Alerts</u> can be found. Follow us on <u>Twitter</u> and the Bureau of Consular Affairs page on

<u>Facebook</u> as well. In addition to information on the internet, travelers may obtain up-to-date information on security conditions by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada or, from other countries, on a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444. These numbers are available from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm Monday through Friday, Eastern Time (except U.S. federal holidays).

The U.S. Embassy in Rabat is located at 2 Avenue Mohamed El Fassi and can be reached at 0537-76-22-65. Consular Services are located at the U.S. Consulate General in Casablanca at 8 Blvd. Moulay Youssef. American Citizens Services can be reached at 0522-26-71-51 during business hours. After hours, please call 0522-26-45-50 or 0661-13-19-39.